

Green practices catching on with students in Singapore as record number of schools sign up for School Green Awards

Annual programme sees participation of first foreign school from India

Singapore, 3 November 2014 – The awareness of environmental issues and resource conservation among students and schools in Singapore continues to grow as the 14th School Green Awards (SGA) - a holistic environmental audit programme administered by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) – was handed out today after a record number of submissions. The SGA this year also saw the participation of students from the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) encompassing universities, polytechnics and Institutes of Technical Education (ITE).

“The tremendous effort and enthusiasm of the students and schools is commendable and inspiring. I am encouraged that this ground-up programme is taking root, judging by the increased participation which now extends to IHLs’,” said Mr Jose Raymond, Chief Executive Officer of the SEC. However, he cautioned against complacency and believes more needs to be done. He added, “We are far from reaching our objectives and let’s not forget this is not a once-off exercise. We need to continue being responsible for the common spaces we live in and in resource conservation.”

The SGA is aimed at educating and inspiring learners of all ages in Singapore schools on issues such as waste minimisation, resource conservation and the greening of the school grounds. This year, the SGA saw a total of 342 academic institutions participating. Beyond just educating students on the value and importance of environmental conservation, schools also benefitted by enjoying cost savings. A total average of 3,602,406.22 KWh (Kilowatt Hour) of electricity was saved by the participating schools through the SGA programme this year. This amount saved could potentially power 9,006 4-room flats for one month. Consumption levels for water and paper, however, were much higher this year compared to the last. A total average of 24, 340.21 Cu m (Cubic Metres) more water and 12, 432.85 Kg (Kilograms) more paper were consumed by the schools this year. (Refer to **Annex A** for more details).

Said Mr Raymond: “While schools did well individually with various practices and awareness activities, the overall shows that the SEC must work harder to tackle water consumption and paper usage.”

This year's awards ceremony – which the SEC called the School Green Day – was also significant as schools were encouraged to take public transport to the event. Schools were also encouraged to pledge to go car-free for a day. 47 schools pledged to reduce their carbon footprint through the use of alternative transportation such as taking the MRT, walking to their destinations or car-pooling. “Our goal is to make this a national movement where all Singaporeans will do their part in caring and being responsible for Singapore's environmental well-being. Part of being a sustainable city of the future requires us to change our commuting habits and switch towards public transport,” said Mr Raymond.

Based on audit results, schools qualify for one of five awards - the Daisy, Palm, Hibiscus, Orchid or the top level Lotus Award. A Lotus Sustained Achievement Award is also given to schools which receive the Lotus Award for at least three times consecutively. This year's SGA saw a 14.6% increase in the number of schools that achieved the Lotus Sustained Achievement Award – 181 versus 158 in 2013. (Refer to **Annex B** and **Annex C** for the list of participant and award details respectively)

This environmental programme even piqued the interest of schools outside of Singapore this year. The Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) Public School from India submitted their application early this year and clinched the prestigious Lotus Award on their first attempt.

The 3R awards – integrated into the SGA last year - which aims to educate students on the need to work towards zero waste by practising the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, also saw an increase in participation from 230 schools last year to 276 this year.

The SGA ceremony was attended by Ms Grace Fu, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for the Environment & Water Resources and Foreign Affairs. The SGA is supported by the Singapore Press Holdings, StarHub, FairPrice, PASEO, Land Transport Authority, National Climate Change Secretariat, National Environment Agency and PUB.

**** END OF MEDIA RELEASE****

For more information about the School Green Awards, please visit <http://www.sec.org.sg/sga/> or contact:

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ABOUT THE SCHOOL GREEN AWARDS

The School Green Awards is a simple environmental programme for all schools in Singapore. Students work together in teams to review their school and submit results together with a report on their environmental efforts. Through this, students gain a better understanding on the environmental impact of their actions. In addition, students participate in environmental programmes and activities to raise awareness within communities and organisations. With a holistic approach to encourage continuous improvement, this programme addresses issues such as waste minimisation, resource conservation and greening of the school grounds. It encourages schools to take on greater ownership in their environmental activities and management.

For more information about the School Green Awards, please visit www.sec.org.sg/sga.



ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit and non-government organisation (NGO). We influence thinking on sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in Singapore. We are also an approved charity and offer tax exemption to donors.

SEC continuously engages all sectors of the community by formulating and executing a range of holistic programmes, such as the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, Asian Environmental Journalism Awards, School Green Awards, Green Champions, Singapore Green

Labelling Scheme, Project: Eco-Office, Project: Eco-Shop and Project: F&B. In addition, we build a pool of committed volunteers under our Earth Helpers programme.

The SEC has also incorporated a new Training & Education arm to provide the people, public and private sectors with the opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and tools in order to protect and improve our environment for a sustainable future.

Strong partnerships with corporations, government agencies and other NGOs are valued by us. These partnerships are vital for sustaining our programmes, leading to positive action and change. Over the years, SEC has given strength and direction to the environmental movement in Singapore.

 [@SECSingapore](https://twitter.com/SECSingapore)

 [SingaporeEnvironmentCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SingaporeEnvironmentCouncil)

 [SECSingapore](https://www.youtube.com/SECSingapore)

Annex A

Electricity, Water and Paper consumption per student and school in 2014 and 2013

Electricity consumption	2014 (Kilowatt Hour)	2013 (Kilowatt Hour)
Average usage per student	485.69 KWh	493.20 KWh
Average usage per school (assuming 1,200 students per school)	233,131,200 KWh	236,733,606 KWh
Savings (compared to 2013)	3,602,406.20 KWh (enough to power up 9,006 units of 4-room flats for one month*)	

**Based on the monthly consumption of a 4-room HDB flat*

Water consumption	2014 (in Cubic Metres)	2013 (in Cubic Metres)
Average usage per student	4.37 Cu m	4.33 Cu m
Average usage per school (assuming 1,200 students per school)	2,099,798.30 Cu m	2,075,458.10 Cu m
Consumption increase (compared to 2013)	24,340.21 Cu m (consumption level increased by approx. 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools*)	

**Each Olympic-sized swimming pool contains 2,500 cubic metres of water*

Paper consumption in 2014	2014 (in Kilograms)	2013 (in Kilograms)
Average usage per student	6352.43 Kg	6,321.35 Kg
Average usage per school (assuming 1,200 students per school)	2,540, 970 Kg	2,528,537 Kg
Consumption increase (compared to 2013)	12,432.85 Kg (12.4 tonnes^) (consumption level increased by approximately 224 trees*)	

^1 Ream = 2.25 kilogram; 1,000 Kilograms = 1 Ton

**Each ton of paper usage equates to 18 trees*

Annex B

Participating numbers in 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013
Pre-School	43	33
Primary	144	145
Secondary	133	132
JC/CI	9	8
Special Ed	5	5
IHL	3	1
TOTAL	342	327

Annex C

	2014	2013
<p>Daisy Award</p> <p>Preschools with scores greater than or equal to 50% will receive the Daisy Award</p>	43	33
<p>Palm Award</p> <p>Schools with a score of greater than or equal to 70% but less than 85% will receive the Palm Award. The school will receive bonus points for performing either (or both) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed as an adopter under PUB's Our Waters Adoption programme Participated in one of the ABC Waters Learning Trails 	18	18
<p>Hibiscus Award</p> <p>Schools with scores greater than or equal to 85% but less than 90% will receive the Hibiscus Award. The school will receive bonus points for performing either (or both) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed as an adopter under PUB's Our Waters Adoption programme Participated in one of the ABC Waters Learning Trails 	21	17
<p>Orchid Award</p> <p>Schools with scores greater than or equal to 90% but less than 95% will receive the Orchid Award.</p> <p>The school must provide evidence of having showcased at least one innovative environmental project.</p> <p>The school will also receive bonus points for performing either (or both) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed as an adopter under PUB's Our Waters Adoption programme Participated in one of the ABC Waters Learning Trails 	13	16
<p>Lotus Award</p> <p>Schools with a score of 95% and above will receive the Lotus Award.</p> <p>The school must show evidence of both of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> showcased at least one innovative environmental project; and, 	66	95

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participated in an external activity to promote Singapore's sustainability <p>The school will also receive bonus points for performing either (or both) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed as an adopter under PUB's Our Waters Adoption programme Participated in one of the ABC Waters Learning Trail 		
<p>Lotus Sustained Award</p> <p>Achieved on third consecutive Lotus award</p>	181	148
TOTAL	342	327